

President's Plush Florida Retreat

Key Biscayne, Fla.

President Nixon's Florida hideaway, which seemed quite modest when he bought it, has grown and flourished until now it appears almost palatial.

When Mr. Nixon purchased two adjoining waterfront homes for \$252,800 early in 1969, some northerners unfamiliar with the price of beachfront property suspected the chief executive had been taken to the cleaners.

The houses themselves were unpretentious, one-floor bungalows.

Now, however, the "Nixon compound" has been refurbished, manicured and expanded until it could be compared favorably with the President's oceanside mansion, Casa Pacifica, at San Clemente, Calif.

NEWSMEN

Changes made during the intervening months became apparent to White House newsmen and photographers invited to the compound yesterday to record a meeting of Mr. Nixon, Secretary of State William P. Rogers and national security adviser Henry A. Kissinger.

For one thing, a full block of properties on the seaward side of Bay Lane now are enclosed by a large and decorative iron fence largely hidden by dozens and dozens of towering hibiscus bushes.

One home serves as Mr. Nixon's office, another as the family's living quarters. Next is the dwelling of C. G. (Bebe) Rebozo, who unquestionably is Mr. Nixon's closest personal friend and surely is one of the very few private citizens who have ever

lived behind a White House-guarded fence.

ROUTE

Finally, the two houses closest to the route tourists take — along Harbor drive — have been leased by the government to house Secret Service agents, presidential physicians and other "support personnel."

Tourists have no choice but to stop at the corner of Harbor drive and Bay lane. A new and permanent guard house has been erected there and, from inside, Secret Service agents raise and lower a new pair of gates that look like those you find at railroad grade crossings. The gates are not raised for tourists.

At the other end of the complex, Bay lane — once a through street — has been bisected by huge white concrete boxes, filled with appropriate flora and fauna. So there now are two Bay lanes, one for Mr. Nixon and his across-the-street neighbors and the other who must approach from the opposite direction.

BLOCK

Near the large, and seemingly permanent, roadblock is Mr. Nixon's personal heliport — a 150-foot-square concrete platform that Army engineers built on pilings over the water at a cost of \$342,358.

As part of the heliport complex, there is an attractive, and equally permanent, structure housing a control tower and offices for Mr. Nixon's Secret Service bodyguards.

The Nixon houses themselves have been repainted

Klein Says Nixon Like Lincoln

Cincinnati

President Nixon was portrayed yesterday by his communications director, Herbert G. Klein, as a chief executive whose courage in the face of changing conditions is in the tradition of Abraham Lincoln, the first Republican president.

Like Lincoln, Klein said, Mr. Nixon "makes tough decisions regardless of personal or political consequences."

"The President's decision on Cambodia and in support of the South Vietnamese in Southern Laos will be marked in history along with many international decisions by his old rival, President Harry Truman, as significant turning points in history."

Klein delivered a Lincoln Day speech before the Hamilton County Republican Club here.

"Lincoln gave the Negro a birthright of freedom," Klein said. "The Nixon administration is giving the blacks a birthright of economic opportunity under freedom. The door is opened."

L.A. Times Service

and, it would appear, some structural changes have been made. Mr. Nixon's office, for example, sports a picture window looking to sea that juts out from the building like a bay window.

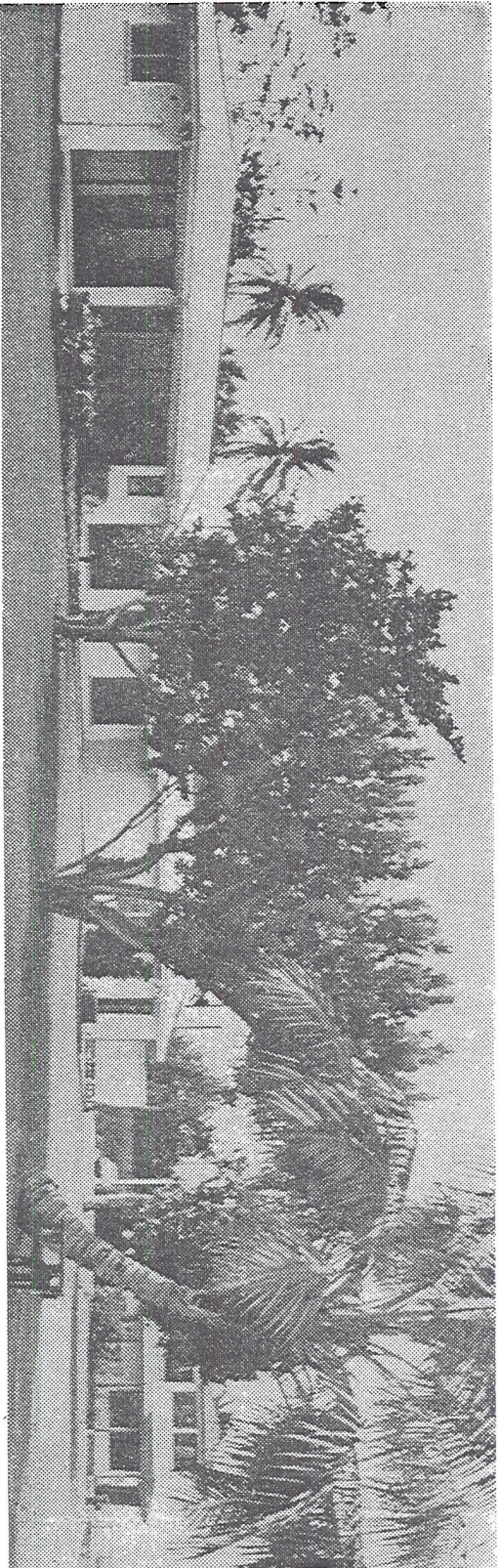
Curving drives with flower beds and ground-hugging lighting fixtures of modern design have been installed. The lawns, once a bit straggly, are now beautiful.

Associated Press

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2-13-71

The Upgraded Hideout



President Nixon reviewed foreign policy yesterday in a beachfront house of his Key Biscayne headquarters

AP Wirephoto